

***Preliminary Amendment***

*Serial No.: Unknown (Parent Serial No. 09/407,818)*

*Filed: Herewith (Parent: September 28, 1999)*

*Title: PRIMERS FOR USE IN DETECTING BETA-LACTAMASES*

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**Remarks**

Claims 1-11, 18-38, and 50 have been canceled, claims 12-17, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 49 have been amended, and claims 12-17, 39-49, and 51 are currently pending. Claims 12-17, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 49 have been amended to clarify the invention. The amendments to claims 12-17, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 49 are either specifically supported by the specification and the originally filed claims or would be readily understood by one of skill in the art. No new matter has been added and Applicants request entry of the above amendments.

The specification is amended to add a Statement of Related Applications section.

Applicants respectfully request that the Preliminary Amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified divisional application.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss any issues concerning this communication by telephone, please contact the below-signed attorney at (612)305-1217.

If additional fees are deemed necessary in this instance, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-4895.

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**Conclusion**

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,  
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By their Representatives,  
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I hereby certify that this paper and/or fee is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Box Patent Application, Washington, D. C. 20231.

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